



GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMINATION

English 30
Part A: Written Response

January 1984

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EDUCATION

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**GRADE 12 DIPLOMA EXAMINATION
ENGLISH 30
PART A: Written Response**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This examination consists of **THREE** assignments. Complete **ALL** assignments. Read the **WHOLE** examination before you begin to write. Budget your time carefully.

TOTAL TIME: 2½ hours

SUGGESTED READING TIME: 5 - 10 minutes

MINOR ASSIGNMENT 1: Critical Response Assignment
Suggested time: 15 - 20 minutes
Value: 15% of this examination
Page 4

MINOR ASSIGNMENT 2: Personal Response Assignment
Suggested time: 15 - 20 minutes
Value: 15% of this examination
Page 8

MAJOR ASSIGNMENT: Suggested time: 90 - 105 minutes
(1½ - 1¾ hours)
Value: 70% of this examination
Page 12

You may use a **DICTIONARY** and a **THESAURUS**.

Space for **PLANNING**, **DRAFTING**, and **REVISED WORK** is provided.

Please use blue or black ink for revised work.

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JANUARY 1984

Directions

1. Read "The Moth and the Star" and "Curiosity" carefully and thoughtfully before beginning the writing assignments.
2. One purpose of your reading should be to ensure that you understand WHAT is being said.
3. Another purpose of your reading should be to ensure that you understand HOW the ideas are presented.

Reading One

THE MOTH AND THE STAR

A young and impressionable moth once set his heart on a certain star. He told his mother about this and she counseled him to set his heart on a bridge lamp instead. "Stars aren't the thing to hang around," she said; "lamps are the thing to hang around." "You get somewhere that way," said the moth's father. "You don't get anywhere chasing stars." But the moth would not heed the words of either parent. Every evening at dusk when the star came out he would start flying toward it and every morning at dawn he would crawl back home worn out with his vain endeavor. One day his father said to him, "You haven't burned a wing in months, boy, and it looks to me as if you are never going to. All your brothers have been badly burned flying around street lamps and all your sisters have been terribly singed flying around house lamps. Come on, now, get out of here and get yourself scorched! A big strapping moth like you without a mark on him!"

The moth left his father's house, but he would not fly around street lamps and he would not fly around house lamps. He went right on trying to reach the star, which was four and one-third light years, or twenty-five trillion miles away. The moth thought it was just caught in the top branches of an elm. He never did reach the star, but he went right on trying, night after night, and when he was a very, very old moth he began to think that he really had reached the star and went around saying so. This gave him a deep and lasting pleasure, and he lived to a great old age. His parents and his brothers and his sisters had all been burned to death when they were quite young.

Moral: Who flies afar from the sphere of our sorrow is here today and here tomorrow.

James Thurber

Copr. © 1940 James Thurber. Copr. © 1968 Helen Thurber. From FABLES FOR OUR TIME, published by Harper & Row.

CURIOSITY

Alastair Reid

may have killed the cat. More likely
the cat was just unlucky, or else curious
to see what death was like, having no cause
to go on licking paws, or fathering
litter on litter of kittens, predictably.

Nevertheless, to be curious
is dangerous enough. To distrust
what is always said, what seems,
to ask odd questions, interfere in dreams,
leave home,
smell rats, have hunches
does not endear cats to those doggy circles
where well-smelt baskets, suitable wives,
good lunches
are the order of things, and where prevails
much wagging of incurious heads and tails.

Face it. Curiosity
will not cause us to die —
only lack of it will.
Never to want to see
the other side of the hill,
or that improbable country
where living is an idyll
(although a probable hell)
would kill us all.
Only the curious
have if they live a tale
worth telling at all.

Dogs say cats love too much, are irresponsible,
are changeable, marry too many wives
desert their children, chill all dinner tables
with tales of their nine lives.

Well, they are lucky. Let them be
nine-lived and contradictory,
curious enough to change, prepared to pay
the cat price, which is to die
and die again and again,
each time with no less pain.
A cat minority of one
is all that can be counted on
to tell the truth; and what they have to tell
on each return from hell
is this: that dying is what the living do
that dying is what the loving do,
and that dead dogs are those who never know
that dying is what, to live, each has to do.

REVISED WORK

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

There is additional space for Revised Work on page 7.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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REVISED WORK

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PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Personal Response Assignment

REVISED WORK

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Personal Response Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Personal Response Assignment

REVISED WORK

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Section II: Major Assignment (Suggested time: 90 - 105 minutes)

Many characters in literature, like the cat in Reid's poem "Curiosity," are willing to risk all in order to explore everything that life has to offer. Others, like Thurber's moth, dare to "reach for the stars" and refuse to adopt the generally accepted view of the way things are and the way things ought to be. Other characters, like the dogs in Reid's poem, simply accept life as it is dealt to them. Still others, like the moth's parents and siblings, limit their efforts to pursuing the generally accepted idea of how life should be lived.

From the literature you have studied, choose two characters who are **SIMILAR TO ANY TWO** of the above characters. Compare the ways in which the two characters you have chosen approach life. Tell what motivates each character to approach life as he does. Describe the consequences of the choices each character makes, and express an opinion about those choices.

Suggestions for Writing

1. Choose any two characters whose approaches to life are interesting to you, and between whom there are grounds for comparison. Be sure that the characters you choose are similar to two characters from the readings.
2. The characters you choose may be from poems, short stories, films, plays, novels, biographies, or other literature you have studied.
3. Decide how each character you select chooses to live his life and what motivates him to live as he does.
4. Describe the consequences of the choices made by each of the characters you choose.
5. Express an opinion about the choices made by each of the characters you choose.
6. Decide on an appropriate method of development. (Caution: Do NOT present a plot summary.) Organize your material so that your ideas will be illustrated with appropriate and effective supporting detail.

Major Assignment

PLANNING

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Major Assignment

DRAFTING

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There is additional space for Drafting on even-numbered pages.

Major Assignment

REVISED WORK

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There is additional space for Revised Work on odd-numbered pages.

Major Assignment

DRAFTING

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Major Assignment

REVISED WORK

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Major Assignment

DRAFTING

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Major Assignment

REVISED WORK

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Major Assignment

REVISED WORK

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Major Assignment

DRAFTING

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Major Assignment

REVISED WORK

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Major Assignment

DRAFTING

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Major Assignment

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